

IDIOTYPE NETWORKS AND IMMUNE REGULATION II:  
AUTOIMMUNITY, CANCER, RECEPTORS AND VACCINES

The purpose of this symposium is to discuss the relatively new studies involving anti-idiotypes and cancer treatment. In the early 1980's, Levy and colleagues reported the treatment of patients with B-cell lymphoma using anti-idiotypes. In this initial study, one patient has been in complete remission for five years; however, a number of other patients which showed promising results early in the therapy developed tumor variants that failed to express the idiotypic recognized by the anti-idiotypic on the tumor cells. More recently, Herlyn and Koprowski, along with Kohler and colleagues, demonstrated that anti-idiotypes can be generated which mimic the overall three-dimensional structure of various tumor-associated antigens. Kohler proposed the concept of an idiotypic based vaccine based on this antigen mimicry for certain kinds of cancer. Anti-idiotypes, which are antibodies against the antigen combining site, have also been: (i) utilized as vaccines against numerous infectious agents via antigen mimicry; (ii) implicated in possible autoimmune diseases; and (iii) used to identify cell surface receptors. The symposium will bring together scientists studying the various applications of anti-idiotypes to promote an interchange of knowledge and ideas. It is anticipated that this meeting will improve the overall interaction between researchers utilizing anti-idiotypes to study cancer, vaccines, autoimmunity and receptors.

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